SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is related to pay-scales recommended by the Rastogi Committee. There should be a blanket ban on taking tuitions by college teachers. Their salaries should increase because these are meagre but there should be a strict system banning tuitions completely. Boys and students are blackmailed through it. What strict steps Government contemplate to prevent it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This question is not related to main question. If Mr. Minister wants to give reply to it, he may do so.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : This question is not related to the Rastogi Committee Report. The UGC is now evolving binding rules to ban tuition fees and on this the UGC is now working. Very soon, I think, the UGC would be in a position to take appropriate action to ban tuition.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bommai Saheb has come. Bommai Saheb should reply to my question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First you please ask your question.

[English]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, there was a comment in the Press about the Rastogi Committee Report that it has downgraded teaching profession. On the one side Rastogi Committee Report describes teaching as the 'mother of all professions' and said that pay scales and service conditions of university and college teachers should be comparable, if not better than those in similar professions. But the recommendations of the Committee downgraded the teaching profession to a status lower than not only that of the IAS and Group A services but also lower than that of the Group B services.

I would like to know from the Government through you, Sir, as a result of such downgradation, would teaching profession not be deprived young and talented candidates? Would it not be a charter of disaster for higher education system? What is the reaction or comments of the Government?

I would like to know whether the Government is serious about the need of State funding of higher education as the Mehrotra Committee in 1986 recommended that the Centre should provide eighty per cent grant to States for university and college teachers' pay scales. I would like to know the reaction of the Government.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, I have already said that the Commission at this moment is examining all these points. The UGC is having an informal consultation with the university vice-chancellors, State Governments and organisations representing university and college teachers. All these issues have been raised by university and college teachers and their associations. All these issues are now being considered at the UGC level. Once UGC gives its recommendations after all these informal consultations, the Government will formally give its own response to that.

Landing of Saudi Airlines Jumbo at Tambaram

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*63. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the erroneous landing of a Saudi Jumbo carrying 347 people at the Tambaram Air Force base instead of the Anna International Airport in Chennai on June 2 has unmasked the fragile safety umbrella of the Indian skies and the efficiency of the air traffic systems and the personnel manning them;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry into the Saudi Boeing landing at IAF Airfield has been conducted;

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) The landing of Saudi Boeing 727, carrying 327 passenger and a crew of 25 members at the Tambaram runway was mainly due to an error on the part of the Saudi crew. Adequate audio/visual aids/ markings exist which distinguish all IAF aerodromes from civil airports. The Tambaram ATC system worked perfectly.

(b) to (d) Investigations have revealed that the Saudi crew did not adhere to the laid down procedures for ILS approach to Chennai airport. The crew also did not confirm correctness of the runways by means of instruments and visual cues. The Saudi Arabian Presidency of Civil Aviation have suspended the flying licences of their three flight crew members. The Approach Controller and Tower Controller of Chennai Airport have also been derostered for the failure in their duties.

[English]

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that incident had occurred due to the mistake of the Saudi Arabian Aircraft crew. I would like to know, why then the Indian Approach Controller and the Tower Controller have been punished. Is it because of the fact that some mistakes have also been detected on the part of the Indian Controllers? If so, what are the mistakes that they have committed?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the IAF had contact between Tambaram and Chennai and the Saudi Boeing had no direct contact with the IAF at Tambaram. The IAF informed Chennai thrice that it not running properly on the runway. After that proper information has not been given. Therefore, it was removed.

[English]

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : May I know whether the Saudi Arabian Government have been requested to send only those pilots who are well conversant with the language on international routes?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Request in this regard has not been made. Saudi Arab took this decision on its own.

Border Firing

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*64. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in firing by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control as also the International Border with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of incidents of firing by Pakistani troops during 1996 and in the current year along the LOC and International Border separately;

(c) the number of civilians, men of the security forces killed and injured because of firing from across of LOC and across the International Border; and

(d) the number of UN observers operating/posted in J&K and their role?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

There has been no increase in the intensity of firing from across the Line of Control in J&K during 1997 as compared to the corresponding period of 1996. However intensity of firing by Pak Rangers along the International Border in J&K has considerably increased during 1997 as compared to the corresponding period of 1996. The total number of incidents of firing along the Line of Control (LOC) and International Border (IB) during the year 1996 was 2949 and 170 respectively. As against this, during the last seven months of 1997, there were 1056 incidents of firings on the LOC and 137 incidents on the IB. The details of casualties suffered by us during these firings along the LOC and IB portion of J&K during 1996 and 1997 are as follows:—

	Army		BSF		Civilians	
	Killed	Wounded	Killed	Wounded	Killed	Wounded
(a) LOC						
(i) 1996	19	118	02	04	15	38
(ii) 1997	03	23	—	03	03	10
(b) IB						
(i) 1996	—	—	—	06	03	05
(ii) 1997	02	07	02	08	—	08

2. The number of UN observers in J&K at present is 11. This number keeps on varying. After Simla agreement, India does not recognise any role of UN observers in J&K.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Defence Minister has in his reply admitted that there has been a considerable increase in the number of incidents of firing by the Pakistani rangers in 1997 as compared to that of 1996. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to why firing by Pakistan at the Indian Border is still going on unchecked and why India is not giving a befitting reply to Pakistan since we say that we are competent enough to protect our country by all means. The people are losing faith and are running away from there in large numbers.

In the second part of my question I would like to know whether we are demoralising the army by giving a